

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

March 21, 2016


www.op97.org

Important Dates:

March 21-24 - SPIRIT WEEK!

March 22 - Elementary Instrumental Music Festival

March 25 - No School

March 26 - April 3 - Spring Break 

April 4-9 - STEM week

April 5 - Brooks tour

April 7 - Science Fair (6:15-7:00pm - Parents/families welcome to see the boards in the multipurpose room. Winners will be announced at 7:00pm!)

April 9 - Staff vs. Parents basketball game fundraiser

News:

SPIRIT WEEK!

Monday, March 21st - Hero Day

Who is your hero? Dress up as your "hero" (past or present). Be prepared to share why they are your hero!

Tuesday, March 22nd - Pajama Day

Wednesday, March 23rd - Wacky Wednesday!

Be wacky! Wear your clothes backwards, style your hair in a wacky way...

Thursday, March 24th - Spirit Day

Wear your Holmes Spirit Wear or red and black to show your school spirit!

Headphones for PARCC

All students need headphones for our upcoming PARCC assessments. Please check in with your student to confirm that they have headphones at school. If your student is unable to obtain headphones, please let your teacher know and we will be happy to help locate a pair.

Brooks Tour

On Tuesday, April 5, we will walk to Brooks Middle School for a tour of the school, followed by a question and answer session. There is no fee for this trip, but we will need a signed permission slip

for each student. Permission slips will be sent home later this week. There will also be a parent orientation on April 6.

The Elementary Instrumental Music Festival will be held at OPRF High School on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This event features EVERY 4th & 5th grade student who is in band or orchestra, over 700 students!

Students will be bused to the high school on Monday, March 21 or Tuesday, March 22 for an hour long rehearsal. Please click the link below and fill out the permission slip to give your student permission to attend. The specific dates and times are included in the e-mail.

[Permission for Festival Rehearsals - CLICK HERE](#)

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO CLICK SUBMIT ON THE FINAL SCREEN!!!

We are looking for parents to ride the buses and assist with rehearsal supervision, and there is a space to mark that on the permission link.

If you have further questions, please contact your student's band or orchestra teacher directly.

Thank you!

Vince Greco - Holmes, Irving, Mann BAND

Sandra Korelc - Beye, Holmes, Longfellow, Whittier ORCHESTRA

The Holmes School Spelling Bee!!

Spring is in the air and the bees will begin to start buzzing – it's spelling bee time. Preliminary rounds for each 1 st 5th grade classroom will be conducted during the school day (see dates below).

Teachers will provide study lists. Each class will produce 2 finalists and 1 alternate (available in case one of the finalists can't make the finals competition for any reason). The final round competitions will be held in the evening by grade.

Here are the dates to remember:

March 23 (Wed):- Preliminary word lists distributed to students

April 4-15 - Preliminary rounds to be held in class

April 27 (Wed) - Final round for finalists in each grade (1st 5th)

(6pm start time with staggered start times by grade)

STEM Week

STEM Week @ Holmes is a series of programs celebrating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. All week long, we will get Holmes students excited about STEM fields with special visitors and activities. STEM Week @ Holmes is sponsored by the Holmes PTO.

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Typing Training from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Typing Training program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is: <http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

Specials- www.holmesspecials.blogspot.com

Art

We begin our new printmaking unit this week. I'm looking forward to hanging 5th grade paintings and artist statements up in the hallway. Be on the lookout for them at the end of April.

~Ms. Jones (kjones@op97.org)

Music

We are working on ukuleles during our last week before break. When we come back the assessments for the third trimester will be emailed out to parents and shared on Google Classroom.

Chorus

We are now practicing for our District Festival. Please click this link- [permission slip](#)- if you have not filled out the form yet. We will be traveling to Lincoln school on Thursday afternoon for our first practice. We will also be performing at the Chicago Wolves game on Saturday April 16th--fill out [this form](#) to RSVP and tell how many tickets you will need.

Spanish

Library, Reading Olympics

Congratulations to Tej Menon, Ezra Plotkin, and Roman Patazopoulos on their win at the district level! This is the **third** time in a row a Holmes team has won at the district level. Let's see if we can keep up our winning streak at this year's **Extreme Round**, Thursday, April 21. The Holmes competition will be the previous week. Any team wishing to participate should have their forms in to me this Wednesday. <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/Reading-Olympics.cfm>

Library

We will be starting a research project this week. Students will be researching a country of their choice, writing a narrative from the point of view of a student in that country, and making a movie that highlights a "day in the life..." in that country. We will be using the CultureGrams database through the OPPL [Homework Help](#) page. While the majority of the project will be done in the library, students may wish to access the databases at home. To do so, students will need an OPPL card and PIN. Don't forget to email me with any questions! mmaneck@op97.org

Physical Education

Reading/Literature

This week, we will be beginning our third trimester ELA Unit, titled "Change and Identity." Throughout this unit, students will be focusing on the following question, especially in relation to their transition to middle school: *What factors shape who you are as an individual and your role within society?* To kick off this unit, we will be looking at poetry about change and we will be identifying elements of figurative language within the poems (RL.4)

Please make sure there is a parent or guardian checking, and initialing, students' reading logs each night!

Writing

Our writing time will be spent working on an expository writing piece about a great thinker. Students will be using research methods used for other essays to apply to this one.

Math

This week students will continue to work on dividing unit fractions by whole numbers and dividing whole numbers by unit fractions. On Wednesday, students will take part 3 of the unit assessment. This part covers multiplication and division with fractions. After Spring Break, we will begin a new unit on decimals.

Science

In science this week, we will be working on our trifold boards for the Science Fair (Thursday, April 7th)! **Parents and families are welcome to view the boards in the multipurpose room on April 7th from 6:15-7:00pm. Winners will be announce at 7:00pm.** Students will need to catch up any work during spring break if they are behind on any deadlines.

Social Studies

This week students will be continuing to work in partners to research a specific colony. They will be looking for information on how it formed, natural resources, job opportunities, religious freedom, and education. Students will use this information to make a "Colonial Handbill". This is an advertisement meant to entice Europeans to move to the colony.

Word Study

This week, we will review the Latin and Greek bases we have covered within Unit 3 of our vocabulary curriculum. Students will have a Unit 3 assessment on Thursday that they should study for throughout the week.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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